CALVERT MARINE MUSEUM'S DISCOVERY ROOM

By Marilyn Force

A misleading title! Visitors of all ages find this special place belongs, not so much to the museum as to them, as they wander through, involved in their own, personal discovery experience. It is a cheerful room, staffed by knowledgeable and caring people. The room will soon be bright and sunny, with the addition of a large window installed in the back wall overlooking the boat basin. As visitors enter through the large double doors that open off the main lobby of the Exhibition Building, they are greeted by a colorful wall depicting elements of a theme that coincides with topics for special programs offered each month. From there, each person finds delightful, hands-on adventures in areas containing activities and resources related to each of the museum’s three regional themes: paleontology, estuarine biology, and maritime history. A comfortable bench, with reading material close by, is provided for adults who do not wish to join in the activities; but most adults do their own “discovering,” like the grandfather whose proud smile brightened the room when he found his first shark’s tooth in the fossil sandbox. Children dress in period and watermen’s costumes, use binoculars to identify birds, raise and lower a working sail, learn to tie nautical knots, explore shelves and “Touch & Guess” cubby holes filled with amazing objects, and use microscopes and magnifiers to view mysterious things they find in specimen drawers. It is not unusual to hear adults and children alike say, “This is the BEST Discovery Room I’ve EVER been in,” and “Wow! I’m coming back again, soon.” Visitors demonstrate their warm and appreciative reaction to the Discovery Room by making generous contributions to the “Donation Box,” by sharing fossils they have collected with other through the sandbox, and by joining volunteer efforts to maintain and improve the room.

Discovery Room facilities are becoming increasingly common, and increasingly important in many types of museums all over the country. Educational researchers have learned that adults as well as children demonstrate a broad range of learning styles, acquiring new information and skills in many different ways. Museum exhibits and facilities that encourage visitors to interact with collections and information in ways that go beyond looking and reading are an important response to this new awareness. While such “multisensory, interactive” learning has long been a feature of nature centers and science/technology museums, today even traditional art museums are developing facilities and exhibits that diversify the kinds of learning opportunities they offer, and are including “fun” as an important objective for the visitor experience.

CMM was ahead of its time in developing an integrated, multi-disciplinary mission. The museum was also committed, early on, to providing the kind of diverse, self-directed learning opportunities that other museums are only now beginning to add. The Discovery Room was included in the master plan developed for CMM by Cambridge Seven Associates beginning in the late 1970s. The room was designed to enhance an already well-established educational program staffed by volunteers, as well as provide a space where all museum visitors, young and old, could interact with specimens and artifacts displayed throughout the buildings and grounds. It was planned to be part of the museum’s expanded Education Department, under the direction of a newly appointed curator of education. Special programs would be held in, and take their impetus from, the Discovery Room.

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CMM STAFF CHANGES

As announced in the previous Bugeye Times, CMM has appointed Karen E. Peterson as curator of education, replacing Craig De Tample who took a position as museum director in South Dakota. Karen’s formal training includes a B. A. in American history from Gettysburg College, M. A. in American Studies/Museum Education from Pennsylvania State University, and certificate programs at the York College of Pennsylvania and the York Academy of Art. She worked for several years in the York/Harrisburg area with The Historical Society of York County; Historic York, Inc.; The Pennsylvania Farm Museum of Landis Valley; and The Dauphin County Historical Society where she was director. In 1988 Karen became director of education for Plimoth Plantation in Plymouth, Massachusetts, and later was the educational consultant for the Plymouth Antiquarian Society. Just before moving to CMM, Karen was the site director for Sunnyside, the home of Washington Irving in Tarrytown, New York.

Karen views her work with CMM as a continuation of her first love, museum educational programs. “I am very pleased to be back in a position where I have the opportunity to work with children. And doing it here, in such a friendly, professional, and scenic environment, makes it all the more enjoyable.”

CMM will lose several long-time staff members this spring. Curator of exhibits, Curtis Bowman, left in early March to take a position in St. Augustine, Florida. Patricia Tower, director of development, is leaving in April for Frederick, Maryland. Dee Danzig, manager of the museum store since 1985, will retire in May. Replacements are being sought for her position and for that of assistant store manager, vacant after Dana Fountain left in March. Retiring first mate of the Wm. B. Tennison, Richard Roming, will be missed by the many passengers who have enjoyed his commentary during the harbor and river cruises. And Lori Linley, aquarist, is leaving this spring for marriage and a move with her husband to Wisconsin.

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Other contributors to this issue:
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The bugeye was the traditional sailing craft of the Bay, and was built in all its glory at Solomons, the "Bugeye Capital of the World." Membership dues are used to fund special museum projects, programs, and printing of this newsletter. Address comments and membership inquiries to:
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A BOAT TO DONATE?

CMM’s Patuxent Small Craft Guild is seeking likely boats to raffle this year to help raise funds for the guild’s waterfront activities and projects. Boats should be sixteen feet and under, preferably of wood, although fiberglass is acceptable, and be in good condition. If you would like to donate, please call George Surgent at (410) 586-1893 or Richard Dodds at (410) 326-2042.

HISTORY OF AMPHIBIOUS TRAINING BASE REPRINTED

In time for the fiftieth anniversary of the D-Day Invasion of Normandy in 1944, the museum has reprinted Merle Cole’s Cradle of Invasion: A History of the U.S. Amphibious Training Base, Solomons, Maryland, 1942-1945. This thirty-eight page history was first published in 1984 and has been a popular seller in the museum’s store, since many of the men who were trained at the base return to Solomons from time to time. Out of print for several years, the reprinting was made possible in part by a grant from Patuxent River Appreciation Days, Inc. Copies are available in the museum store for $3.95 each.

Cradle of Invasion records the wartime history of the Amphibious Training Base, the nation’s first such base, and in its time one of the largest military installations in southern Maryland. Thousands of men were trained here for amphibious landings in the Pacific and at Normandy Beach in France. The amphibious operations of World War II were described in an article in The National Geographic Magazine in July 1944 as America’s “secret weapon.”

Museum members are reminded that the museum store stocks over two hundred interesting books and pamphlets relating to the museum’s themes of maritime and local history, estuarine biology, and paleontology, including a good selection of children’s books. Three of the major publications produced by or in cooperation with the museum are available: Geoffrey F. Footner’s The Last Generation: A History of a Chesapeake Shipbuilding Family, chronicling the history of the M. M. Davis & Son Shipyard and the Davis family, $29.95; David C. Holly’s Tidewater by Steamboat: A Saga of the Chesapeake, relating the colorful history of the Weems Steamboat Line, $29.95 (produced by the Johns Hopkins University Press and the Calvert Marine Museum); and Working the Water: The Commercial Fisheries of Maryland’s Patuxent River, edited by CMM’s former curator of maritime history, Paula J. Johnson, and including a catalog of CMM’s fisheries collection (produced by The University Press of Virginia and the Calvert Marine Museum), $35.00 hardback and $19.95 in soft cover. Call the museum store on (410) 326-2750 for information about any of the publications they sell.

(CMM photo by Richard Dodds)
**BULKHEAD SURVEY WORK AT THE J. C. LORE OYSTER HOUSE**

Visitors to the J. C. Lore Oyster House exhibit building may have been aware of a problem along the bulkhead fronting the Narrows at the rear of the building, necessitating the closing of this area to the public. The Lore Oyster House is, of course, a part of the Calvert Marine Museum and contains exhibits on boatbuilding and seafood harvesting and processing, retaining much of its appearance as an active oyster-processing facility.

In 1993 the Calvert County Commissioners entered into an agreement with the Shore Erosion Control Program of Maryland's Department of Natural Resources to design and build a new bulkhead. John Huang and Associates, Inc., DNR's contractor, began a survey of the bulkhead on February 19 from which an engineering design will be prepared for a new bulkhead. If approved by the county, construction work is planned for fiscal year 1995. The project is being funded by an interest-free loan from DNR, repayable over fifteen years. (Richard Dodds)

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**NEW SEASON FOR WM. B. TENNISON**

After an abbreviated season in 1993 because of extensive repairs, the museum's historic bugeye and passenger boat, Wm. B. Tennison, should be ready to start her 1994 season on May 1. Repairs on the bulkwarks this past winter were a continuation of the major repairs in 1993 and, when finished, will include replacement of all the bulkwarks, patent stern, and much of the side planking.

Built in 1899 at Crabb Island, Maryland, the Tennison is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and was recently nominated for listing as a National Historic Landmark.

The Wm. B. Tennison offers hour-long cruises of Solomons harbor, the surrounding creeks, and the lower Patuxent River from May through October. Departure time is 2:00 p.m., Wednesday through Sunday, weather permitting. If there is demand, an additional cruise will be made at 3:00 p.m. On Saturdays and Sundays in July and August, the Tennison will offer a run at 12:30 p.m. All trips, however, will require a minimum of fifteen passengers, with maximum capacity of forty-five passengers. The vessel may also be chartered for special events when not on regular cruises.

Fares for the cruises remain the same as in 1993: $4.00 each for adults, $2.00 each for children ages 5 through 12 (children under 5 are free with an accompanying adult). Tickets are available at the boarding site one-half hour before departure on a first-come, first-served basis. The charter fee is $150.00 per hour. For further information and charter reservations, please call CMM on (410) 326-8217.

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**WATERSIDE MUSIC FESTIVAL**

**Saturday, May 28, 1994**

The always-popular Waterside Music Festival this year presents “The Hard Travelers” in concert. This Annapolis-based folk group mixes classic with contemporary melodies in a rich blend of voices and acoustic instruments.

The Hard Travelers first established themselves in the 1960s as a popular group at the University of Maryland. Their style was likened to the Kingston Trio. In 1964 they disbanded, each pursuing his own career. A one-shot reunion in 1985, however, proved to be a huge success and led to recordings and appearances before sold-out, standing-room-only audiences. One of their signature songs, “Chesapeake,” was written by Hard Traveler Buddy Renfro, and expresses their concern for the plight of the bay. Governor William Donald Schaefer selected this song as the focal point of a musical anthology called “Bay Folk.”

An evening with The Hard Travelers is certain to be one of nostalgia as they sing old favorites, such as “Tom Dooley,” “Where Have All the Flowers Gone,” and “Blowin’ in the Wind.” Come join us — sing along — tap your feet — and have a good time!

The museum grounds will open at 6:00 p.m. This year’s “food court” will be presented by the Holiday Inn’s Maryland Way Restaurant, The Captain’s Table, Solomons Crab House, Boomerang’s, and Woodburn’s Deli. Delicious samplings will be sold for supper before the concert and throughout the evening. Beverages will also be sold on the premises.

Tickets are now on sale at the Museum Store. General seating is $15.00 per ticket, with a special member’s price of $12.00 per ticket. (Individual Memberships are entitled to purchase two tickets at the member price; Family Memberships and above will be entitled to purchase four tickets at the member price.) Reserved seating will be available at $25.00 per ticket, and will include a pre-concert reception to meet the artists, parking in the museum lot, and one complimentary beverage. Tickets may be charged on Visa or MasterCard.
Country Life, Dr. Ralph Eshelman, then CMM director, wrote that of all the wonderful plans for the Calvert Marine Museum,

perhaps the most exciting is the Discovery Room, where hands-on exhibits will encourage self-teaching. Synoptic collections will allow visitors to identify fossils, fish, or shells. Through microscopic investigation estuarine life, otherwise invisible, can be examined. Use of the caulking hammer or net shuttle can be attempted. Participatory exhibits, making learning fun, are the real test of understanding.

In 1988, the museum received a generous grant from the Marpat Foundation to support the Discovery Room and Learning Center in the new Exhibition Building. Craig De Tample, at that time CMM’s curator of education, planned and set up the Discovery Room with the help of a few volunteers and museum staff. It was furnished with materials gleaned from various areas of the former exhibition building along with some newly purchased and donated materials.

In the next year, a Discovery Room Volunteer Workgroup was formed to help maintain the room’s many activities and to continue developing new ones. This dedicated and talented group meets the last Thursday of each month from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. in the mezzanine-level workroom. Members collaborate with Education Department staff on a diversity of projects and activities, including working directly with children, as well as painting, sketching, sewing, research, discovery box fabrication, resource filing, costume upkeep, carpentry, and use of the laminating machine and computer.

The Discovery Room welcomes nearly seven thousand school children each year. The room is also the home of the long-running Saturday morning “Young Salts” program, afternoon “Sunday Stories,” summer “Camp CMM,” and a monthly segment on the local family “Nooks & Crannies” television program. Seasonal exhibits are featured in the room as opportunities present themselves: one summer, a surprise brood of seahorse babies emerged from the swollen belly of a male seahorse living in a Discovery Room aquarium; artwork from one of the museum’s neighboring elementary schools adorned the Discovery Room walls during the December 1993 holiday season.

This room plays a very special role at Calvert Marine Museum. Often, it is the first part of the museum our visitors encounter. Because it features hands-on materials relating to all of the museum’s themes, the room effectively introduces the museum to visitors, stimulates their curiosity, and encourages them to explore the museum in accordance with their own individual interests. The personable Discovery Room interpreters and the intimate, comfortable space also orients visitors to the style and pace of this museum, where so much emphasis is placed on personal interaction and human scale. For visitors who come to the Discovery Room at the end of their stay, the activities and staff in the room offer opportunities to reinforce and extend what they have learned in the more traditional exhibition areas.

Since its opening, the Discovery Room has been a popular and dynamic part of the museum. This spring, a complete set of new furniture, a renovated knot board, signal flags and a captain’s chest, more discovery boxes, a new-and-improved migratory bird activity, an aquarium life-support project funded by a grant from the PRAD Foundation, and our beautiful new window will bring new excitement to the Discovery Room, and new fun for our visitors. Warm — dynamic — welcoming. These are characteristics we hope the Discovery Room will always have. At the same time, there will always be room for change here, for the input and contributions of many minds and hearts and hands, working together to keep this special place fresh and fun.

The Discovery Room is five years old in 1994. Five is a very important birthday, of course, so the museum will be celebrating with a birthday party in August for our five-year-old friends and their guests. We hope you will join us to celebrate the past, present, and future of the Discovery Room, and make a part of it your very own museum discovery!
Visitors Enjoy The Discovery Room

(Photos by Marilyn Force)

Ellie Mowbray with decoys she prepared and presented to the Discovery Room.

Volunteer John Johnson and Sandy Roberts (right) at work in Discovery Room.
At the annual dinner of the museum’s Board of Governors in December, board member Carey Randall (on right) presents a check for $11,000 to CMM’s curator of paleontology Michael Gottfried (on left) for further work on the permanent paleontology exhibit. This money represented the amount raised at the annual Bugeye Ball in September.

(Photo by Richard Dodds)

CMM was the site of the Colonial Maritime Conference on February 25 to 27, 1994. Pictured here are officers of the Colonial Maritime Association (left to right): Eric Speth, Will Gates, Christa Conant, and Mark Fisher. This organization is an informal, non-profit association of period ship holders, historians, technicians, and enthusiasts interested in fostering a greater and more comprehensive understanding of colonial vessels, their history, and their place in history and humanity.

( Photo by Richard Dodds)

Work is progressing on the river otter exhibit to be located at the southeast corner of the museum’s exhibition building. Workmen are forming the concrete foundation while CMM curator of estuarine biology Kenneth Kaumeyer (extreme left), looks on. While work is under way this spring, access to the marsh walk may be closed at times.

( Photo by Robert Hurry)
VOlunteer Spotlight
CMM Volunteers


Occasion: the annual Recognition Dinner for Calvert Marine Museum volunteers.

The “Spotlight” falls this time on attendees of the volunteer dinner, and on each of the volunteers who contributed at least twenty-four hours of service in 1993 as members of the CMM Volunteer Council.

Volunteer Achievement Award recipient Marilyn Force displays a promised window for the Discovery Room, applauded by educator Lynne Warren and volunteer coordinator Layne Bergin.

(Photos by Richard Dodds)

Postponed a week due to weather woes, another rough forecast kept many from coming to the evening event. Fifty-one volunteers and guests enjoyed a social hour and a chance to get acquainted, followed by a seafood lasagna dinner served by CMM staff. Staff also contributed the sweets for the dessert bar.

Volunteer hours given by 106 Volunteer Council members, as well as over fifty other volunteers, totaled 13,978.75 in 1993. The value of this service is estimated at $129,000. Thanks to the Hogensons, Capt. Smith’s Seafood of Solomons, Audrey Davenport of Penwick House, the Solomons Island Yacht Club, and Woodburn’s Grocery for generously supporting this volunteer recognition event. And thanks to all of the volunteers who share their time and talents at the Calvert Marine Museum.

(Layne Bergin)

Volunteers received awards for 100 or more hours: (left to right, standing) Lisa Mandell, Doris Sweet, Carroll Lusby, Canny Frazer, Will Loughrey, Cindy MacArthur, Kay McClellan, Kurt Hein, Pat Miller, Buck McClellan; (left to right, seated) Marilyn Force, Ethel Manley, “Pepper” Langley, Marilyn Force, Dorothy Ordwin, Marilyn Ruark, and Ellie Mowbray. Not pictured are: Paul Adams, Wally Ashby, Doris and Paul Berry, Don Brown, Dick and Judith Carrigan, Dede King, Bill Lake, Al Lavish, Peter and Zelma Margelos, Linda McGilvery, Leslie Moore, Jack Norris, Lee Phillips, Eleanor Prince, Sandy Roberts, Charles Sands, Margaret Saville, Edith Schrader, Ruth Showalter, and Richard Simonds.

(Photos by Richard Dodds)

"THE MOON IN JUNE"

A MOONLIGHT CRUISE FOR MUSEUM MEMBERS AND GUESTS

Make plans to join fellow members and their guests for a MOONLIGHT CRUISE on Saturday, June 25, from 8:00 to 11:00 p.m. on the Captain Tyler. We will cruise the Patuxent River — and hope the full moon will join us! A cash bar and DJ will add to the fun! $15.00 per person. Send check with your reservation (form below) to save your spot. Deadline: June 15, 1994.

WE NEED 80 PERSONS TO SET SAIL!

Yes! Sign me up for the Moonlight Cruise, Saturday, June 25, 1994. I enclose $15.00 per person.

Name: ____________________________ Phone No. ____________________________

Number of persons: ____________________________

Mail form to Calvert Marine Museum, P. O. Box 97, Solomons, Maryland 20688
CONTRIBUTORS TO THE 1993 YEAR-END APPEAL

The Board of Directors of the Calvert Marine Museum Society, the museum director, and staff thank all of the following members and friends for their contributions of nearly $10,000 to the 1993 Year-End Appeal to benefit the museum.


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